



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 28, No. 1

First Quarter, 1992

Whole No. 102

## President's Report

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

P.O. Box 40583

Palisades Station

Washington, D.C. 20016

Elections for the 1992-93 year have been completed and are reported elsewhere in this issue. I both congratulate and thank those who will be participating in these important offices.

I wanted to use this space to thank our outgoing officers, especially those who will not be serving in an elected capacity this time. I know, however, that each of these three stalwarts of the Canal Zone Study Group will continue to promote and to participate in the work of the organization.

George Stilwell really provided my primary education in Canal Zone philately. He has been a member of the CZSG since its inception, and has served as President and Vice-President. Most recently he has been a valued advisor as a member of the Board of Directors. But the most lasting and significant contribution that George has made to our group is to institute and subsequently to conduct on many occasions the annual Canal Zone Mail Sale.

Lawson Entwistle has been a member of the Board of Directors for the past several years, has been a valued member of the publication committee and, as an active writer, is our most prolific producer of handbooks. Lawson will continue to

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## Mail Sale No. 21

Consignments for the 21st mail sale may be sent between June 1 and June 30, 1992, to Brad Wilde, c/o P & M Coal Mining Co., Box 6518, Englewood, CO 80155-6518. Certificates are required on Scott Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 15. A detailed inventory must accompany all items submitted. The only exception to this policy will be if a collection is being sold by an estate or an heir. Please do not send damaged, soiled, or poorly centered copies of low value stamps. Please ship material insured or registered. This sale will be held in late September or early October.

## Double Postage/Post Due Error

by Paul Kravitz and Richard D. Bates, Jr.

An exciting variety on the 10-cent Provisional Flat A postage due has been discovered. It is related to the well-known and not overly scarce (100 copies) postage due error listed in Scott's Catalogue as No. J17a. But close examination reveals that, though the DUE and the letters POST in POSTAGE are clearly printed twice, the AGE in POSTAGE is not doubled. The stamp is illustrated in Fig. 1. This is of particular interest because *Canal Zone Stamps* by G.N. Plass, G. Brewster, and R.H. Salz lists, in addition to J17a, variety J17.1 which has the overprint reading POST DUE, with the AGE missing. This variety is one about which little is known. Only one copy has been found; that copy is faulty and has a straight edge at right. *Canal Zone Stamps* illustrates this copy and speculates that, as only "one copy is known, it may have been caused by a foreign object coming between type and the stamp during the overprinting."

The stamp illustrated in Fig. 1 probably raises more questions than it answers. Clearly, it is a sound, properly straight edge copy because part of the guide line remains along the right side. The pencil notation "30" on the back appears to identify the missing AGE variety as position 30 UL. The UL designation is included as only upper left panes of Scott No. 75 were overprinted POSTAGE DUE. If the errors were plated, as the position notation on the back indicates was done, one person, probably the original dealer or an experienced collector, must have handled breaking up the pane.

How might the missing AGE variety have occurred? And why would the variety occur once here, not twice, as the second impression shows all the letters in each word? One explanation for the missing AGE is that these letters might have worked their way back so that they did not transfer an impression during the printing process. Or they may have broken. Either event would probably have been gradual, but no intermediate impressions of the AGE are known. Moreover, if the letters stopped printing at some point during the press run through either mechanism,

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Fig. 1. Double error.

## Meeting Notices

At WESTPEX '92 a regional meeting of the CZSG will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, California on Saturday, May 2, 1992 at 3:00 p.m. This will be the 22nd consecutive meeting to be held at the annual WESTPEX show, and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the CZSG. Details from R. Salz, 60-27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121.

At the World Columbian Stamp Expo there will be a meeting of the CZSG at the Rosemont, Illinois, Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center on Saturday, May 23, 1992, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Details from John C. Smith, 408 Redwood Ln., Schaumburg, IL 60193.

At STaMpsHOW 92 during the American Philatelic Society Convention and Champions Exhibition in Oakland, California. There will be a 40th Anniversary meeting of the CZSG on Saturday, August 29, 1992, at 1:00 p.m. Details from R. Salz.

# The Canal Zone Philatelist

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A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

Robert A. Reisinger, Editor  
3845 Inca Street NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

The Canal Zone Philatelist (USPS 556-140) is published quarterly for \$8.00 per year which includes membership in the Canal Zone Study Group, 10,000 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85748. Second-class postage paid at Tucson, AZ. Send subscriptions, changes of address and complaints of non-delivery to the Secretary, John C. Smith, 408 Redwood Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements than above are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Advertising copy should be sent to Paul J. Kravitz, P.O. Box 9157, Bardonia, NY 10954.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to David J. Leeds, P.O. Box 491472, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Manuscripts must be double-spaced typed or printed copy. Glossy photographs must be supplied for figures of stamps or covers which must show clearly against black backgrounds. Photocopies are not satisfactory. If you need help, write to the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

## President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

operate the business office of the CZSG and act as liaison with the USPS.

Dick Salz has been "Mr. Canal Zone" for over twenty years. He has served as President or Vice-President every year since 1971, was a major factor in bring *Canal Zone Stamps* to fruition and has acted as the major cohesive force to keep the organization moving forward. He, like Lawson and George, have stepped aside to let others have an active role in the future of our organization. But there is little doubt that Canal Zone philately lies close to their hearts. I know each will continue to contribute to the health and well-being of the CZSG for many years to come.

At the same time, elsewhere in this issue, I am announcing the appointment of David Leeds as the new Editor of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. He replaces Bob Reisinger who has done a superb job of

producing our quarterly publication in a timely, first-rate manner. I especially thank him for putting up with me when I do not quite have everything in to him on time.

To each of these distinguished gentlemen I offer my sincerest thanks, both for myself and for all the past, present, and future members of the Canal Zone Study Group.

## Double Error

(Continued from page 1)

would the Panama Canal Press at Mount Hope, which did the overprinting of the words POSTAGE DUE, have repaired it and then placed the pane that produced the stamp illustrated in Fig. 1 back in the press for a second impression? In that case they would have known that they were creating double overprints. This conclusion is necessary because, though it is difficult to tell which of the two impressions was applied first, the use of a stereomicroscope reveals that the full POSTAGE DUE was applied after that POST DUE impression.

Perhaps, instead, this pane had been one of the first panes overprinted. The 10-cent value may have been selected by the Mount Hope Press as the first to be overprinted because the overprint stands out well on the yellow color of the stamp, facilitating a careful check of the print quality. Work ups and other faults were corrected after the impressions on the first pane or two were made. At this point, the "POST" error in position 30 was corrected, and a second impression may even have been added deliberately to one of the first "make ready" panes to check progress. If this pane then inadvertently found its way into regular stock, the very close doubling may have been missed. Or it may even have found its way out the back door of a post office or even of the Mount Hope Press. After all, something must account for the fact that the entire double overprint pane was numbered by position, which indicates that someone knew of the error and had possession of the entire pane. But postal employees were not permitted to sell postage due stamps in any manner whatever, as indicated in the circular from Director of Posts Calhoun dated April 15, 1925, and reproduced on page 241 of *Canal Zone Stamps*. Thus, unused copies, let alone full panes, should not have fallen into the hands of the public, though the availability of fairly large numbers of unused copies of most Canal Zone postage dues stamps indicate that they did get out.

What about the foreign material explanation offered previously for the missing AGE? The fact that the full POSTAGE DUE overprint lies on top of the partial POST DUE requires several serendipitous events for this explanation to be plausible. At some stage in the press run, foreign material would have to come between the stamp and the letters AGE (and all of each of the A, G, and E) but not of any of the

other letters in either POSTAGE or DUE. This, in general, is not what is observed when foreign material obstructs the printing. Two panes (at least) must have received an impression with the AGE missing, the pane with the copy shown in Fig. 1, and the pane that contained the variety J17.1 illustrated in *Canal Zone Stamps*. Then either the foreign material fell away and this particular pane, of all those overprinted, happened to be the one to receive the double overprint, or the problem was noticed, the plate cleaned, and this pane, either because it was still in the press or it was subsequently reinserted, received a second complete overprint. Clearly the lack of any significant numbers of missing AGE copies results because only a few panes were overprinted after the problem arose, or because straight edge copies were removed or were not noticed or returned by collectors. Most straight edge copies of later postage due stamps were pulled off panes and destroyed as accountable waste. This may have happened with the J15-17 as well.

In any case, the variety illustrated in Fig. 1 provides fuel for interesting speculation about the origin of the varieties of J17. Interesting questions that readers may help answer about J17a are whether the name of the original dealer is known, whether the date and prices of the first offering are traceable, whether plate number blocks still exist intact, and whether members have copies of J17a that exhibit one or more broken letters in the overprint.

## Election Committee Report

The Canal Zone Study Group Election Committee reports that, as of December 15, 1991, 435 ballots had been received with the following results:

President:

Richard D. Bates, Jr. ....433 votes

Vice President:

Bradley G. Wilde ....432 votes

Secretary:

John C. Smith ....434 votes

Treasurer:

Richard F. Larkin ....428 votes

Directors:

George R. Campbell ....395 votes

David J. Leeds ....391 votes

Elizabeth B. Stergion ....392 votes

Congratulations to each of those listed above on being elected to the offices shown. In addition, Richard H. Salz received 21 votes as a write-in for the Board of Directors, a tribute to the very high esteem in which he is held by CZSG members.

The Election Committee, on behalf of the entire membership, congratulates the full slate of officers on being accepted by the membership, and thanks those members who participated in the election.

George W. Stilwell, Chairman  
Elections Committee



## Back to Canal Zone Basics

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

In a recent column I discussed collecting coil stamps. The advice about avoiding single examples given there applies even more strongly to imperforate stamps. The maxim is that imperforate stamps must be collected at least in pairs; a single stamp could have been trimmed to appear imperforate.

There were no regularly issued imperforate Canal Zone stamps. All stamps that are imperforate in some way fall into the category of "errors, freaks, and oddities (EFO)." Two kinds of imperforate stamps are listed errors. The first of these come from panes that were not perforated horizontally. A vertical pair from such a pane, described as a vertical pair, imperforate horizontally, will not have perforations between the stamps, nor will it have perforations at the top of the top stamp in the pair or at the bottom of the bottom stamp. By my count, there are two examples of this type of variety on Canal Zone stamps, Scott Nos. 22c and 32a. This variety can arise when the perforations are missing on all or only part of the pane. The companion to this type of variety, which would arise from panes that did not receive vertical perforations, does not seem to occur on Canal Zone stamps.

The other type of major error is one that is missing only one row of horizontal or vertical perforations. Such errors are described as horizontal pairs, imperforate between, such as Scott Nos. 22a, 23a, 25a, and C25a, or vertical pairs, imperforate between, such as Scott No. 22b. Such error pairs will be missing the perforations between, but will have full perforations all around. And, as is true for the first type of error described above, the perforations in the appropriate places for the particular type of error must be missing completely. Not even the faintest hint of a perforation can be present or else the specimen is reduced from error status to being an oddity with partial perforations.

There is another type of imperforate variety, though not an error listed in Scott, that occurs on Canal Zone stamps, primarily those produced by the Hamilton Bank Note Company. These stamps are only missing the perforations between the margin and the stamp along the margin, and are referred to as imperforate bottom or top margin. These examples are the only exception to the maxim stated earlier; here one can collect a single stamp as representative of an imperforate variety. These have been illustrated in *Canal Zone Stamps* by G.N. Plass, G. Brewster, and R. H. Salz, and are included in the numbered checklist therein, but they are not listed in the Scott catalogues.

One particular reason that I chose to discuss this topic is that I have recently seen some examples of supposedly imperforate stamps that are subject to question.

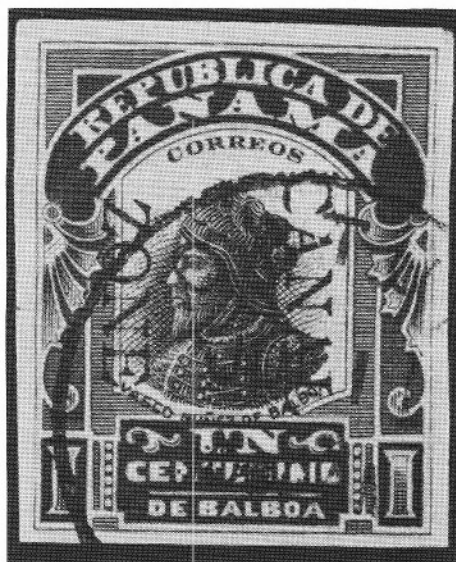


Fig. 1. Purported essay printed on thin cardboard of Scott No. 22

These are usually peddled with an accompanying mimeographed sheet of information about "Varieties of Canal Zone Scott #22" with varieties listed and priced with a reference to their having been "compiled in 1925 by E. Klein." Some of the information on the sheets is sound, but much of it is not. George Stilwell tells me these were being sold in northern New Jersey some 15 to 20 years ago. The copy I saw (which is illustrated in Fig. 1) was an imperforate single, supposedly an "essay printed on thin cardboard." The "cardboard" is simply the soft paper variety, and the imperforate character could have been manufactured by cutting down all sides of a wide margined single. Especially on the Hamilton Bank Note Issue (Scott Nos. 21-26) the margins were very broad, and a single copy can be cut down to appear imperforate. Any supposedly imperforate stamps should be purchased in a pair; any supposedly unlisted variety on Scott No. 22 accompanied by the mimeographed sheet referred to above should be viewed with suspicion.

## New Editor

Several members responded to my request for suggestions for a new Editor for *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, and I am pleased to announce the appointment of David Leeds to fill this important position. Future material submitted for publication should be sent to:

David J. Leeds  
P.O. Box 491472  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

I offer my thanks, and that of the entire membership to David for volunteering to take on this important function, and to our outgoing Editor, Bob Reisinger, for the job he has done so ably since he was appointed.

Richard D. Bates Jr.  
President

## Mail Sale Report

The 20th mail sale is wrapped up. Now to some facts about the successful sale. The final sales figure is \$83,763 which provides \$8,377 for running the sale. Total expenses came to \$4,844 which leaves a net of \$3,533 for the treasury. There were eight lots returned for various reasons, most of which were for incorrect descriptions.

I sincerely thank all of the vendors for providing such excellent material. But there was a rather considerable amount that was returned for either one of two reasons: (1) the material was not up to our standards, and (2) duplication. As an example, take Scott No. C2: There were in the sale a block of four which sold, a C2 in a set of C1-C5 which sold, and two of four singles sold. AND, I returned 12 copies of C2 to various vendors.

As you might be aware, the stamp newspapers gave us some nice free publicity. The results are quite interesting: 71 requests for catalogs, 4 joined the CZSG, 23 sent in bids, and 15 of these were successful.

There were 3,885 bids recorded which averages 4+ bids per lot. There were 13 bids on lots 57 and 103; 14 bids on lots 115, 219 and 788; and 15 bids on lot 133. Out of 240 bidders, 184 were successful (77%). There were 49 vendors, two of whom have provided material for all 20 sales. There were 965 lots of which 884 were sold. Total catalog value and estimates came to \$123,645 and the sales total was \$83,763 or 68% (the 18th sale percentage was 62%, the 19th sale percentage was 65%).

We are most fortunate in having a dedicated group to help with the sale: from the East Coast: George Campbell, Mike Demski, and George and Ginny Stilwell; from the West Coast: Ray Erickson, Dick and Maggie Salz, Russ Samuels, and Steve Schumann. Without them there would be no mail sales.

The twenty-first mail sale is scheduled for 1992, and will be managed by our new vice-president, Bradley G. Wilde. Elsewhere in this issue you will find an announcement about the sale.

West Coast Mail Sale Committee

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## Auctions by Gilbert N. Plass

More Canal Zone material was sold at auction during the past quarter than in other recent quarters. A number of very rare stamps were sold as well as a plentiful supply of more available material. The fall season opened with the Canal Zone Study Group auction, which had an amazing amount of material in all price categories, including some great rarities. This was followed by the Jacques Schiff sale in November which had available an unusual number of errors and varieties. Then William Fox offered the Morton Dean Joyce collection of booklet panes which offered unbelievable quantities of these rare panes together with many items of the greatest rarity.

In the following listing all items are unused and in very fine condition unless mentioned otherwise. The auction realization is given first, followed by the catalogue price as given in the auction catalogue. Some of these prices include the 10% charge to the buyer, while others do not. If the price ends in a round number, it usually does not include the 10% charge, otherwise it is included.

Scott No. 1, \$412, (\$425) Harmer  
2 on cover, couple of nibbed perfs, \$242 (\$250) Kaufman  
3a, Canal Zone inverted, f, trop. gum, slightly short perfs, \$400 (\$500) CZSG  
9, bl. of 4 with dropped "ON", two filled thins, \$180 (\$275) Schiff  
10, bl. of 9 with dropped "ON", \$220 (\$250) Schiff  
10a, inv. ovp., \$170 (\$250) Schiff  
11b, inv. PANAMA, f, \$250 (\$375) Schiff  
12, bl. of 4 with "PANMA", \$62 (\$96) Schiff  
12, bl. of 4 with "ANAMA" (2) and "PANAM" (1), \$110 Schiff  
12, bl. of 4 with "PANAAM", \$525 (\$700) Schiff  
14c, bl. of 4 with antique "Z", \$280 Schiff  
14var., bl. of 4 with antique "N", \$400 Schiff  
14var., bl. of 8 with antique "Z" and "L", \$460 Schiff  
15, trop. gum, f/vf, \$1900 (\$2400) CZSG  
18, bl. of 4 on reg. cover to US, \$360 Schiff  
18b, PANAMA down and up, \$110 (\$150) Siegel  
19 + 17a on reg. cover to US, \$420 Schiff  
22a, horiz. pr., imperf btw., 2 pr. in bl. of 4, gum bend, \$1550 (\$1500)  
22g, inv. center, brown trop. gum, lightly toned, \$1600 (\$2500) CZSG  
23a, horiz. pr. imperf. btw., \$1100 (\$1500) Schiff  
23d, dbl. ovp., one diagonal, \$675 (\$700) Schiff  
25a, imperf. vert., part inscription on selvage, usual brown gum, \$1350 (\$800) CZSG

27, 29, 30 singles of each with spaced CA, \$105 (\$82) Schiff  
31b, Pos. L, \$425 (\$550) Fox  
31b, Pos. G, \$650 (\$550) Fox  
31b, Pos. D, 4 panes in unexploded booklet, \$1800 (\$2200) Fox  
32a, Vert. pr., imperf horiz., \$625 (\$900) Schiff  
32b, Pos. L, \$650 (\$700) Fox  
32b, 2 panes in unexploded booklet, \$1200 (\$1400) Fox  
32b, 4 panes in unexploded booklet, \$2500 (\$2800) Fox  
32c, f, \$525 (\$700) CZSG  
32c var., complete booklet of 4 panes of 2c with 1c covers, \$2000 (\$2800) CZSG  
38b, \$375 (\$525) Fox  
38b, 4 panes in unexploded booklet, \$2500 (\$3500) Fox  
38c, \$800 (\$900) Fox  
38c, 4 panes in unexploded booklet, \$1600 (\$2100) Fox  
39a, strip of 3, one stamp with missing ovp., \$1650 (\$1008) Christie's  
39e, inv. center, dull og, f/vf, \$550 (\$850) CZSG  
39f, ovp. and center inv., 2 panes in unexploded booklet, \$11,500 (\$10,000) Fox  
39g, Pos. C, 2 panes in unexploded booklet, \$1800 (\$1700) Fox  
39g, Pos. D, 4 panes in unexploded booklet, \$3250 (\$3400) Fox  
46, vf, \$115 (\$140) Schiff  
46, bl. of 4, first printing, \$725 (725) CZSG  
50 + 38 on reg. cover to US, \$300 (\$100) Schiff  
52d var., bottom pair from pane, dbl. ovp., no gum, \$3750 Fox  
52e, pair, one without ovp. from booklet pane, dist. gum, \$3750 Fox  
53b, horiz. pr., right stamp without ovp., \$1600 (\$2000) Schiff  
53c var., pair of booklet panes imperf. btw., from partial sheet that was not cut up into booklet panes, \$1500 CZSG  
55a, ovp. reading down, \$160 (\$175) Schiff  
55a, ovp. reading down, block of 4, tiny natural inclusion, \$418 (\$500) Christie's  
56a, double ovp., f, \$320 (\$359) Schiff  
56c, horiz. pair, left stamp without ovp., \$1200 (\$1400) Schiff  
56e, CANAL dbl., \$1000 (\$1000) Schiff  
60b, dry og, \$800 (\$750) Fox  
60b, 4 panes in unexploded booklet, one stamp thin, \$2400 (\$3000) Fox  
61b, double ovp., specks of disturbed gum, \$650 (\$750) Schiff  
61f, dry og, \$1600 (\$1200) Fox  
67, used, \$150 (\$200) Schiff  
A34, unissued Arms set, 7 values, tg, nibbed perfs on two stamps, \$1250 (\$1575) CZSG  
71e, nine different positions and printings, \$1300 (\$1125) Fox

73a, 4 panes, \$525 (\$600) Fox  
73a, 2 panes with different plate numbers, \$900 (\$300) Fox  
73a, 2 panes in unexploded booklet, \$325 (\$300) Fox  
84d, \$270 (\$200) Fox  
85a, ZONE ZONE, tg, hr, \$400 (\$350) CZSG  
86a in bl. of 9, ZONE ZONE, folded along vert. perfs, minor defects, \$770 (\$880) Christie's  
91c, ZONE CANAL, dist. og, \$125 (\$200) Christie's  
97b, \$675 (\$650) Fox  
101a, \$450 (\$380) Fox  
102a, two panes in unexploded booklet, \$12,000 (\$5000) Fox  
106a, seven diff. panes, \$135 (\$122) Fox  
117a, 2 miscut panes, \$190 (\$90) Fox  
117a, 4 panes with different plate numbers, \$325 (\$180) Fox  
117b, 2 panes in unexploded booklet, \$400 (\$500) Fox  
117b, 2 panes in unexploded booklet, each with different plate number, \$550 (\$500) Fox  
C5, C5a in plate bl. of 6, \$230 (\$200) Schiff  
C25a, imperf. btw., f/vf, \$800 (\$800) CZSG  
CO8, CTO, \$180 (\$180) CZSG  
CO9, CTO, \$210 (\$250) CZSG  
CO11, CTO, \$50 (\$60) CZSG  
CO14a, CTO, inv. ovp., \$1550 (\$1500) CZSG  
J2, bl. of 5 on 1914 cover from India, \$600 (\$525) Schiff  
J3 on 1914 cover from Barbados, \$750 (\$600) Schiff  
J4 on 1924 cover from Jamaica, \$650 (\$200) Schiff  
J14, tiny gum bend, \$180 (\$250) Siegel  
J17a, POSTAGE DUE double, \$310 (\$450) CZSG  
J17b in strip of 3, "E" of "POSTAGE" omitted, \$425 (\$500) Siegel  
J18a, ZONE ZONE, \$1600 (\$1750) Schiff  
J19a, ZONE ZONE, \$1900 (\$1750) Schiff  
J21 var., bl. of 4, split ovp., from pane with J21a, \$440 CZSG  
O3, CTO, \$29 (\$40) Philstamps  
O4 on 1948 cover to Guatemala, \$300 (\$125) Schiff  
O7, CTO, \$8 (\$7.50) Philstamps  
O8, CTO, \$400 (\$600) Schiff  
UC2, \$300 (\$325) CZSG  
UF1 with No. 40, used in 1918, \$1350 (\$1500) CZSG  
UF1a used to Detroit, \$1100 (\$1250) Schiff  
UX2, light trop. toning, \$121 (\$180) Philstamps  
UX6, \$650 (\$1000) CZSG  
Aug. 27, 1929 Cristobal to Lakehurst, then last leg of Graf Zeppelin Round the World Flight to Friedrichshafen, with \$1.31 Canal Zone postage, \$1045 Christie's

(Continued on page 5)



## Auctions

(Continued from page 4)

May 22, 1930 Cristobal to Lakehurst, then Graf Zeppelin to Friedrichshafen, with \$1.50 Canal Zone stamps and US C14 \$1.30 Zeppelin stamp (only 25 flown) \$3080 Christie's

Addresses of above auctioneers: Please mention *The Canal Zone Philatelist* when writing for a catalogue. Auctioneers wishing to have their sales included, send catalogues with prices realized to Gilbert N. Plass, Box 9973, College Station, TX 77842. Christie's Robson Lowe, 502 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022; William A. Fox, 676 Morris Ave., Springfield NJ 07081; Harmers of New York Inc., 14-16 East 33rd St., New York, NY 10016; Kaufman, Box 1895, Wayne Township, NJ 07470; Philstamps, 4795 Mariposa Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404; Jacques Schiff, Jr., Inc., 195 Main St., Ridgefield Park, NJ 07880; Robert A. Siegel, 160 East 56th St., New York, NY 10022.

## Winners

SESCAL '91, sponsored by the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, October 11-13, 1991, a Vermeil to Allan Harris, *Canal Zone Early Foreign Air Mail Service, 1925-31*.

FLOREX '91, sponsored by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs, Orlando, Florida, November 1-3, 1991, a Silver to Gary Bruce, *Classic Canal Zone First Days, 1904-29*.

Bradley A. Baker

## Official Obstruction?

Something is missing. Normally, the overprint on CO2 is cleanly struck and reads OFFICIAL/PANAMA CANAL. But on the copy shown in Fig. 1 only OF IAL and part of the C in OFFICIAL shows. This interesting oddity arose because there was an obstruction between the stamp to which the overprint was being applied and the form for applying the overprint. The obstruction remained in place when the copy was affixed to the cover and the cancellation applied, as can be determined because the cancellation shows breaks in continuity in the same region. The top line in the cancel shows a break that matches the missing portion of the letters in the word OFFICIAL, and the break in the second line is aligned in a semicircular arc with the break in the first line of the cancel and the missing portions of the C in the overprint. Thus the foreign material must have been sticking to the stamp and was subsequently removed, probably when the stamp was soaked off the cover. Thanks to the eagle-eye stamp spotter, Paul Kravitz, for sending this item to me to have photographed.

R.D. Bates, Jr.

## PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNALS—

*C.Z.S.G. Philatelic Notes* (Whole Nos. 1-5) .....\$3.00

*The Canal Zone Philatelist* (Whole Nos. 6-97) .....each, \$1.25

### HANDBOOKS—

CZSG HB No. 1 (1953): *Canal Zone Third Series Counterfeits*, DeVoss  
A Canal Zone Rarity, (Scott No. 40a) Conger  
22 pages .....\$3.00

CZSG HB No. 2 (1953): *Canal Zone Booklets*, DeVoss  
A Unique Canal Zone Error (Scott No. 31a) Conger  
22 pages .....\$3.00

CZSG HB No. 3 (1955): *Canal Zone First Issue on Cover*, Weiler  
*Canal Zone Essays and Proofs*, Brett  
27 pages .....\$3.00

CZSG HB No. 4 (1976): *Type III Mount Hope Local Overprints*,  
(Scott Nos. 46-68) Philler  
*The Hamilton Bank Note Issue of 1906-07*, DeVoss  
*The 3¢ 'Stuart' Washington*, Milburn  
27 pages .....\$3.00

CZSG HB No. 5 (1982): *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone*, Entwistle  
272 pages (1982); 43 page Supplement (1984); 23 page  
Supplement (1987) .....\$12.00

SPECIAL PUBLICATION (1986): *Canal Zone Stamps*, Plass, Brewster, Salz  
364 pages, 681 illustrations, hardbound .....\$65.00

CZSG HB No. 6 (1987): *Catalogue of Cristobal Precancels, including  
SRC dated*, Entwistle  
8 pages .....\$2.00

CZSG HB No. 7 (1990): *U.S. Navy Slogan Cancels in the Canal Zone and Panama  
Area, 1908-1941*, Karrer and Wentworth  
46 pages .....\$4.00

CZSG HB No. 8 (1991): *The U.S.F. Constitution—Cachets and Cancellations of the  
1932 and 1934 Transits of the Panama Canal*,  
Wentworth and Karrer  
45 pages .....\$4.00

All publications are available, post paid, from the CZSG Publications Office, c/o Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650



Fig. 1. Partial genuine OFFICIAL/PANAMA CANAL overprint.

## 1992 Scott Specialized Catalogue Reviewed by Gilbert N. Plass

The 1992 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps has a considerable repricing of Canal Zone stamps. In a quick check I found over 100 new prices most of which were price increases. This reflects the current strong market for better grade Canal Zone stamps. Most of the few decreases were for inexpensive regular issues.

The biggest change in the Catalogue is a new 66 page section listing Essays for United States stamps. Unfortunately no attempt has been made to list the known essays for Canal Zone.

I can only list a sample of the numerous price changes for the Canal Zone. I have tried to include some examples of the price increases among the rare stamps as well as the decreases for some of the lower priced regular issues.

Scott No.	1991 Cat.	1992 Cat.
1, single on post card ..	\$1200	\$1400
3c .....	2750	3000
9a .....	100	125
9d .....	1000	1100
10, "ON" dropped .....	250	275
11a .....	125	175
12d .....	650	700

12e .....	950	1000
13a .....	175	200
13, inv. "M" .....	125	150
14a .....	850	1000
14, spaced "AL" .....	150	175
19 .....	40	55
21a .....	4500	5000
22g .....	2500	2750
23a .....	1400	1500
23b .....	1600	1750
23h .....	2250	2750
24e .....	3500	4000
31a .....	12,500	13,000
39c .....	550	600
39f .....	5000	6000
39g .....	1000	1100
41 .....	50	45
46d .....	1000	1250
50 .....	45	50
53b .....	1500	2000
55a .....	140	175
55b .....	1000	1250
55c .....	1250	1500
56f .....	750	850
61b .....	700	900
66 .....	120	135
67 .....	450	500
A34, each of 7 stamps .....	225	250
71c .....	1250	1750

71d .....	400	450
73a .....	200	250
75 .....	45	40
76a .....	3750	4500
80 .....	150	225
84c .....	3250	3500
85a .....	300	500
86a .....	850	950
91b .....	1600	1700
97d .....	2500	2750
115b .....	3000	3500
116a .....	1250	1400
J2 .....	175	190
J11a .....	3250	3500

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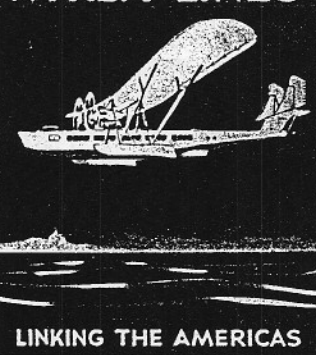
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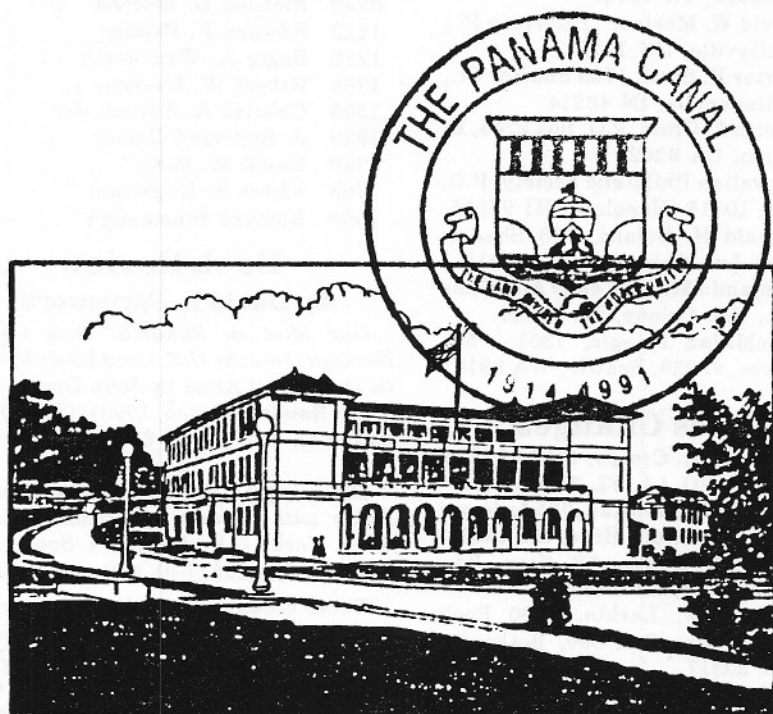
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77th Anniversary

JUN 19 1991

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Orlando, FL 32801



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Fig. 1. Cachet and cancel for 77th Anniversary of the Panama Canal.

## Canal Zone Reunion

The five-day reunion in June 1991 of approximately 4000 former residents of the Canal Zone to celebrate the 77th anniversary of the Panama Canal was marked philatelically by the U.S. Postal Service which set up a mini post office at the Twin Towers Hotel and delivered the pictorial cancel hand-back shown in Fig. 1. Bob Van Siclen, descendant of one of the builders and today President of the Panama Canal Society of Florida said, "It was the largest pictorial cancel the Orlando Post Office had ever used; like the Panama Canal, [it was the] gigantic achievement of its age."

The cachet in Fig. 1 is an artist's rendition of the Canal Zone school, built in 1917, that all younger residents of the Canal Zone attended sooner or later. Those former students included Guillermo "Billy" Ford, the Vice President of Panama, who joined old friends and classmates to be guest speaker at the luncheon on June 22, 1991.

The reunion brought lots of hugging, kissing and screaming as thousands of happy Zonians saw one another after absences of, for some, as many as 50 years. They are all proud of what their parents and grandparents built in Panama.

Jean Flynn Stough

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## Secretary's Report

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### DUES ARE DUE!

Anyone that has not paid their 1992 dues, please do so as soon as possible! You should have received your 1992 dues notice by now.

Your secretary is now using a Macintosh Plus computer with a 40 Meg hard drive. With this more powerful computer I have increased my capabilities, thus I'm able to keep better records which makes my job considerably easier. Changing over from the Commodore computer to the Mac may have caused some errors in the address labels. Please check your address label for any corrections; also advise me of any address changes.

I now have an option in the CZSG database to keep private addresses private. If anyone would like to have a private listing, please send me a note. Currently, we do sell CZSG label sets to dealer members, for special Canal Zone sales and/or auctions.

I would like to thank everyone for sending in their survey forms. The response has been beyond my expectations. Please be patient, it will take some time to calculate these results. Several comments have been made as to the questionnaire not being anonymous. This is true, because I have to open your dues envelope and sort all the data. I am the only person who will see them. There are no records being kept on who marked what. You may have noticed a number marked on the outside of your return envelope. This is your CZSG number and my KEY to access and update your computer file dues record.

Reminder, the CZSG is holding a local meeting at the WORLD COLUMBIAN STAMP EXPO at the Rosemont, Illinois, Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center on Saturday, May 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. If you plan on attending and I can be of any assistance concerning local information, feel free to drop me a line. This stamp show is being billed as the biggest show of the year and similar to AMERIPEX '86. It is a ten day event, opening Friday, May 22, thru Sunday, May 31, 1992. I hope to see many of you there.

As of December 1, 1991, our membership stands at 892.

### Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

*Our Man in Panama: How General Noriega Used the U.S. - and Made Millions in Drugs and Arms* by John Dinges (New York: Random House, 1990) (ISBN 0-394-54910-4), 402 pages, \$21.95,  
and

*Divorcing the Dictator: America's Bungled Affair with Noriega* by Frederick Kempe (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1990) (ISBN 0-399-13517-0), 469 pages, \$24.95.

These books concern the daily workings of the darker side of power, drug dealing, and corruption in Panama and the United States. These are close-in accounts of the actors in the drama, rather than somewhat removed diplomats and such whose activities are described in many books about Panama and the United States.

They follow General Noriega until his imprisonment in Florida. He became a CIA informant in the 1960s and was, according to the authors, our man in Panama almost till the very end. Noriega's activities, which might otherwise have been condemned by the United States, may have been overlooked because of his close ties. The most interesting feature of these books is their description of Noriega's building of a power base, his playing all sides, and his involvement with payoffs. The authors use their journalistic talents to dig out details so that readers can better understand Noriega and his rise to power.

The authors seem to be very careful about reporting events, but, of course, it is difficult for most of us to know about the truthfulness of these accounts.

The authors focus on different details and individuals while reporting the same events. Personally, this reviewer found Kempe's book more flowing and even. However, both books are highly recommended.

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